



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Work and Human Capital

2021-2-E1601N069

Learning objectives

The main goals of this course are to develop an understanding of:

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- _____
- _____

Contents

Work and employment play a key role in most people's lives. They provide not just material rewards, but also opportunities for self-expression and fulfillment, identity and dignity, purpose and social relationships, development and overall wellbeing. Yet, work is often considered a commodity, that can be negotiated for the highest/lowest price and most people are generally viewed as being motivated just by material rewards. What are the main characteristics of what we term "work" and "employment"? What do people expect from their jobs? What makes a "good" job? Why are some people (or groups of people) more likely to get more enjoyable, meaningful and rewarding jobs while others are not able to have jobs that fit their needs and expectations? What actors, processes (such as "industrial relations") and forces (social, economic, and political) contribute to define the "working and employment conditions" as well as "job quality"? Which actions and policies could improve job quality and support

people throughout their working lives?

Detailed program

This course consists of three parts, as follows.

Part I: The meaning of work and work organization

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- _____

Part II: Job quality

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PART III: The impact of the context on working conditions

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Prerequisites

Good logical reasoning ability; good comprehension and communication skills; basic knowledge of social, political and economic issues.

Teaching methods

This course will address these topics and questions by reading textbooks and additional recommended resources, by lectures and class discussions. Students will also be asked to investigate job quality and understand inequalities in job quality by analyzing, with the support of a course tutor, information available in the [European Working Conditions Survey](#), run by Eurofound.

At times of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic lectures will be conducted in real-time by streaming. Lectures on specific topics will be recorded in advance and made available to students on the course platform.

Assessment methods

Written exam (90 minutes), with the opportunity to take an integrative oral exam. The written exam consists of:

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Each exam, written or oral, will be marked based on the ability to communicate effectively concepts, theories and empirical evidence by using the appropriate scientific language.

At times of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, exams will be conducted online, via Respondus (written exam) and WebEx (oral exam).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Bordogna, L. e Pedersini, R. (2019). Relazioni industriali. L'esperienza italiana nel contesto internazionale, il Mulino, Bologna [*only the following chapters: I, II, III, IV, V, VI*]

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